Atomic Power Plants in Rajasthan

4274. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Power Plants in Rajasthan are experiencing large cost overruns and continue to be non-operational; and

(b) if so, what are the plans of Government to resolve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) There has been increase in the cost estimates of 2×220 MWe RAPP 3&4 project presently under implementation. The original sanctioned cost of Rs. 711.56 crore was approved in November, 1986 without Interest During Construction (IDC). The revised cost estimate of the project including IDC approved in August, 1995 is Rs. 2107 crore. The increase in the cost is attributable to addition of IDC amounting to Rs. 657 crore, escalation, increase in taxes and duties, variation in exchange rate and delay in completion of the project consequent on the IC dome delamination incident at Kaiga-1 and the hold put by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board pending clearance of the revised design for the dome. It is expected that these units will be commissioned during 1998. The Unit-1 of RAPS which was shut-down from February, 1994 due to equipment related problems has been successfully restarted in April, 1997, after the leak in the Over Pressure Relief Device has been fixed using indigenously developed technology and robotic toolings. This unit has been operating at a re-rated capacity of 100 MWe. RAPS Unit-2 which is shut-down from August, 1994 for en-masse coolant channel replacement and upgradation of systems is expected to be restarted by mid 1998. There has been no revision in the sanctioned cost of Rs. 253 crore for the coolant channel replacement programme.

Plan Projects of IREL

4275. SMT. JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Rare Eartah Limited (IREL) is implementing any plan projects;

(b) is so, the plan projects implemented by the IREL during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) the details of the ongoing planned projects of IREL and their expected date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGUPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) has taken up certain plan projects for modernisation and improvement of the existing plants, augmenting the production capacity, making value addition, facilities for the staff, etc. The projects taken up in the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and their status are given in attached statement.

Statement

Plan Project of IREL

COMPLETED PROJECTS

(i) Housing colony at Manavalakurichi:
Construction of 15 quarters including common amenities like water tank, roads, etc. for the essential staff, at a cost of Rs. 200.00 lakh.

(ii) Setting up of 22 TPH fluidised bed drier at Manavalakurichi:
For mechanically drying the wet concentrate for feeding it to the minerals separation plant thereby improving the production, at an estimated cost of Rs. 170.00 lakh.

(iii) Quality improvement of ilmenite at Chavara:
To improve the quality of ilmenite to meet international standards by